

**CHARTER COMMISSION
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
711 Kapiolani Blvd. Suite 1485
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Chuck Narikiyo

Phone: 808-592-8622

Fax: 808-592-8633

E-mail: cnarikiyo@honolulu.gov

PUBLIC INPUT SOUGHT ON PROPOSALS TO CHANGE CITY GOVERNMENT

HONOLULU, HAWAII, March 14, 2006

The 2005-2006 Honolulu City Charter Commission is seeking input from the public on proposed changes to the City Charter. The public is invited to participate in three upcoming community informational briefings:

Tuesday, March 21, 2006 at 6:00 p.m.

Kailua High School – Cafeteria

451 Ulumanu Drive in Kailua

Tuesday, March 28, 2006 at 6:00 p.m.

Kapolei Hale – Conference Rooms A-D

1000 Uluohia Street in Kapolei

Tuesday, April 4, 2006 at 6:00 p.m.

Hahaione Elementary School – Cafeteria

595 Pepeekeo Street in Hawaii Kai

“This is one of the most valuable moments for public participation in the charter revision process,” said Commission Chair Donn Takaki. “All of our meetings are open to the public, but these evenings are specifically dedicated to reaching out and asking for input from around the

island. We hope that everyone will take a look at the proposed amendments and tell us what changes they would like to see in the City Charter.”

At each briefing, there will be a short presentation regarding the charter revision process and the proposals under consideration. Then the public will have the opportunity to provide their comments to the Commissioners.

LEARN ABOUT THE PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS. Copies of all proposals are posted as PDF files on the Commission website, <http://www.honolulu.gov/chc>. Hard copies are also available for viewing at the Commission office at 711 Kapiolani Boulevard Suite 1485, or the Municipal Library in the City Council Annex at 558 S. King Street.

Out of 108 proposals submitted to the Commission, 42 proposals remain under consideration. The proposals include the following:

- 10 proposals regarding city departments and directors’ duties
- 3 proposals on elections, Council districts, and term limits
- 7 proposals on the City’s planning and zoning process
- 2 proposals on the Neighborhood Commission and Neighborhood Boards
- 2 proposals on the City budget process
- 5 proposals on ethics and open government
- 3 proposals to establish new agencies and funds
- 4 proposals regarding City Council procedures
- 6 “housekeeping” measures

HOW TO SUBMIT COMMENTS. The public is encouraged to attend the meetings and provide testimony. Register to speak by calling 592-8622 or emailing charter@honolulu.gov, or fill out a sign-up form upon arrival at the meeting. Written testimony can be sent by mail to the Charter Commission, 711 Kapiolani Boulevard, Suite 1485, Honolulu, HI 96813; by fax to 592-8633; and by e-mail to charter@honolulu.gov. Official agendas will provide more information regarding testimony.

NEXT STEPS. Following the three community informational briefings, the Commission will meet again in April-May to vote on all proposals. Those that pass will be referred to the Commission's Committee on Style, which will prepare amendments and finalized language for the Commission's final approval in summer 2006. Ultimately, the finalized proposed charter amendments will be placed on the 2006 General Election ballot for voters' approval.

ABOUT THE COMMISSION. The Charter Commission is a 13-member appointed body responsible for revising the city charter, the governing document for the City & County of Honolulu. The convening of a Charter Commission provides a rare and important opportunity for major changes to city government. This is only the fourth Charter Commission convened since the adoption of the city charter in 1972.

For more information, visit the Charter Commission website at <http://www.honolulu.gov/chc> or contact the Commission staff at 592-8622 or charter@honolulu.gov.

#